

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

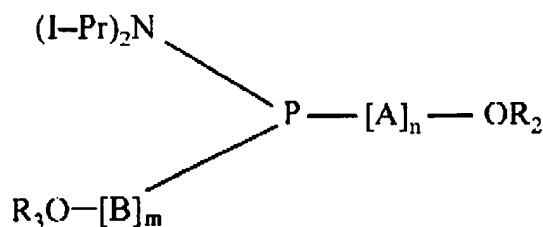
MAR 28 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below, without prejudice or disclaimer. This claim listing replaces all prior versions and listings.

1. – 69. Cancelled

70. (New) A compound of the formula:



wherein

A is selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted-
 $(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}-$;

B is selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted-
 $(OCH_2CH_2)_{m1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{m2}-$;

n is 0 – 50;

n1 is 0 – 50;

n2 is 0 – 50;

m is 0 – 50;

m1 is 0 – 50;

m2 is 0 – 50;

I-Pr is isopropyl;

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of H, $-CH_3$, alkyl, phenyl, $-CH_2CH_2CN$, and $-CONH_2$;

R₃ is selected from the group consisting of H, $-CH_3$, alkyl, phenyl, $-CH_2CH_2CN$, and $-CONH_2$;

71. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein n is 0 – 20, m is 0 – 20, n_1 is 0 – 20; n_2 is 0 – 20; m_1 is 0 – 20 and m_2 is 0 – 20.

72. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, n is 1; m is 0; and, R_3 is $-CH_2CH_2CN$.

73. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, n is 2; m is 0; and, R_3 is $-CH_2CH_2CN$.

74. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$; n is 3-20; m is 0; and, R_3 is $-CH_2CH_2CN$.

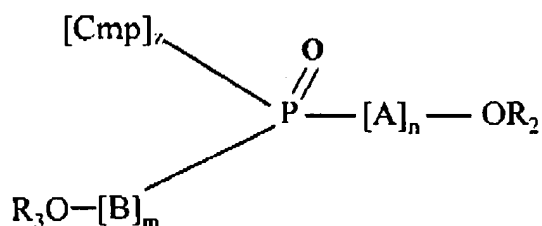
75. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n_1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n_2}-$; n is at least 1; m is 0; and, R_3 is $-CH_2CH_2CN$.

76. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n_1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n_2}-$; B selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n_1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n_2}-$; n is 1 – 50; n_1 is 1 – 50; n_2 is 1 – 50; m is 1 – 50; m_1 is 1 – 50; and, m_2 is 1 – 50.

77. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$; B is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$; n is 2; m is 2; R_2 is CH_3 , or CH_2CH_3 ; and, R_3 is CH_3 , or CH_2CH_3

78. (New) The compound of claim 70 wherein A is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$; B is $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$; n is 3-20 and m is 3-20; R_2 is CH_3 , or CH_2CH_3 ; and, R_3 is CH_3 , or CH_2CH_3 .

79. (New) The compound of the formula:



wherein Cmp is selected from the group consisting of a nucleoside, a nucleotide, an amino acid, a carbohydrate, an oligonucleotide, a peptide, and an oligosaccharide;

A is selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{n1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{n2}-$;

B is selected from the group consisting of $-(OCH_2CH_2)-$, $-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)-$, and grafted $-(OCH_2CH_2)_{m1}-(OCH_2CH_2CH_2)_{m2}-$;

n is 0 - 50;

n1 is 0 - 50;

n2 is 0 - 50;

m is 0-50

m1 is 0 - 50;

m2 is 0 - 50;

z is at least 1;

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of H, -CH₃, alkyl, phenyl, -CH₂CH₂CN, and -CONH₂;
and,

R₃ is selected from the group consisting of H, -CH₃, alkyl, phenyl, -CH₂CH₂CN, and -CONH₂.

80. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein n is 0 - 20; m is 0 - 20; n1 is 0 - 20; n2 is 0 - 20; m1 is 0 - 20; and, m2 is 0 - 20;

81. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1 - 15.

82. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-30.

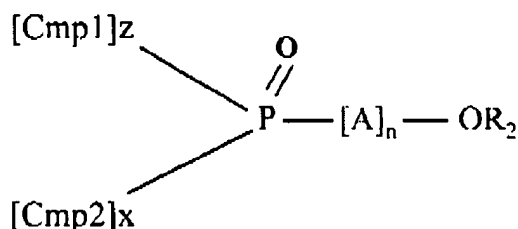
83. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-100.

84. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-15.

85. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-30.

86. (New) The compound of claim 79 wherein Cmp is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; and, z is 1-100.

87. (New) The compound of the formula:



wherein Cmp1 is selected from the group consisting of a nucleoside, a nucleotide, an amino acid, a carbohydrate, an oligonucleotide, a peptide, and an oligosaccharide;

Cmp2 is selected from the group consisting of nucleoside, a nucleotide, an amino acid, a carbohydrate, an oligonucleotide, a peptide, and an oligosaccharide;

A is selected from the group consisting of $-(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2)-$, $-(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)-$, and grafted $-(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_{n1}-(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_{n2}-$;

n is 0 - 50;

n1 is 0 - 50;

n2 is 0 - 50;

x is at least 1;

z is at least 1; and,

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of H, $-\text{CH}_3$, alkyl, phenyl, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$, and $-\text{CONH}_2$.

88. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein n is 0 - 20; n1 is 0 - 20; and, n2 is 0 - 20.

89. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is at least 1; and, x is at least 1.

90. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is 1-50; and, x is 1-50.

91. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 3'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is 1-50; and, x is 1-50.

92. (New) The compound of claim 87 wherein Cmp1 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; Cmp2 is a nucleoside or a nucleotide with the 5'-O bond to the phosphorous; z is 1-50; and, x is 1-50.